

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 03015 01 OF 02 170623Z

14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

----- 065352

P R 152130Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8592

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 3015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, OAS, LX, TD, BH, US

SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORM: MAILLIARD VISITS TO CAPITALS--
PORT OF SPAIN

DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED

SUMMARY: AMB MAILLIARD'S MEETINGS IN PORT OF SPAIN
INCLUDED LENGTHY SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS
AND KEY CABINET MINISTERS; DETAILED SESSION WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY SEIGNORET AND STAFF, AND SUBSTANTIVE
LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH. MAJOR
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PREOCCUPATION WITH OAS WAS NEED FOR
UNIVERSALITY OF MEMBERSHIP IN HEMISPHERE AND DESIRE THAT
ORGANIZATION PROVIDE AS MUCH PROTECTION AS POSSIBLE FOR
SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF SMALL ENGLISH-
SPEAKING STATES FROM ENCROACHMENT OR ABSORPTION BY THEIR
LARGER LATIN NEIGHBORS. MEETINGS SERVED EFFECTIVELY TO
BRING TO PERSONAL ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER AND KEY
CABINET MEMBERS THE PROBLEMS OF CURRENT CHARTER REFORM
EXERCISE. BELIEVE RESULT WILL BE TO ENERGIZE GOTT AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 03015 01 OF 02 170623Z

OTHER CARICOM ATTENTION TO ISSUES INVOLVED AND PERHAPS

TO STIMULATE SOME EARLY GOTT LOBBYING WITH SELECTED
LATINS ON ARTICLE 8 MEMBERSHIP ISSUE. END SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES RICH, AND
AIDES MET IN LENGTHY WORKING SESSION WITH GOTT MINISTRY
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY SEIGNORET AND
SEVERAL MEMBERS OF LATTER'S STAFF FRIDAY, DEC 12, AT THE
MINISTRY AND EXPLORED IN DETAIL THE PROBLEMS USG PERCEIVES
IN CURRENT OAS CHARTER REFORM EXERCISE. WASTEFUL
PROCEDURAL PRACTICES IN OPERATION OF OAS WERE ALSO
DISCUSSED AND COMMON GROUND FOUND IN GOTT AND USG
CONCERN OVER SOME OF LATIN LEGALISMS AND OAS ORGANIZATIONAL
ENCRUSTATIONS. SEIGNORET HAD BROUGHT GOTT OAS DEL
COUNSELLOR CORINNE BAPTISTE FROM WASHINGTON TO JOIN IN
DISCUSSIONS. FOR SEIGNORET, SESSION WAS OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY
EDUCATIONAL ON PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF OAS CHARTER AND
OAS OPERATIONS. AMB MAILLIARD MADE DEPTH OF USG CONCERN
AND OBJECTION OVER SOME OF DRAFT ARTICLES UNMISTAKEABLY
CLEAR AND ALSO SHARED RESULTS OF HIS EARLIER CONSULTATIONS
ON THIS CURRENT TRIP.

2. AT SPECIAL REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC
WILLIAMS, AMB. MAILLIARD REMAINED IN PORT OF SPAIN
UNTIL SUNDAY MORNING IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MEET WITH
DR. WILLIAMS ON SATURDAY, DEC 13. THE PRIME MINISTER
RECEIVED AMB. MAILLIARD AND ME AT HIS RESIDENCE. ALSO
PRESENT WERE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CUTHBERT JOSEPH
(WHO HAS USUALLY HEADED GOTT DELEGATION AT OAS MINISTERIAL
MEETINGS) AND MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE FRANCIS
PREVATT (CHAIRMAN OF THE RULING PARTY AND HEAD OF GOTT
DELEGATION TO MAY 1975 OAS MINISTERIAL MEETING).

3. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NOT
PERSONALLY PAID ATTENTION TO OAS CHARTER REFORM EXERCISE
HERETOFORE, BUT ON BASIS OF OUR DISCUSSION AND AMB.
MAILLIARD'S RESUME OF VIEWS OF THOSE SOUTH AMERICAN
GOVERNMENTS CONSULTED ON THIS TRIP, WILLIAMS INSTRUCTED
HIS MINISTERS TO BRING THE PERMANENT COUNCIL'S CHARTER
DRAFT BEFORE CABINET FOR A FULL SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW AFTER
THE PERMANENT COUNCIL REPORTS TO GOVERNMENTS EARLY IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT O 03015 01 OF 02 170623Z

1976.

4. WILLIAMS PLAINLY STATED THAT FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT
AS LEADER OF A RECENTLY-INDEPENDENT ENGLISH-SPEAKING STATE
IN THE CARIBBEAN, THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF THE OAS WAS
THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT COULD GUARANTEE THE INDEPENDENCE
AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE SMALLER STATES. HE NOTED
THE HISTORICAL TERRITORIAL CLAIMS WHICH STILL THREATENED

THE INTEGRITY OF GUYANA AND BELIZE IN PARTICULAR, AND
STATED THAT HE FELT THE CARIBBEAN ENGLISH-SPEAKING STATES
IN GENERAL TO BE THREATENED BY ENCROACHMENT, ABDORPTION,
DOMINATION, OR DISMEMBERMENT BY THEIR LARGER LATIN
NEIGHBORS. IN THS CONNECTION, FIRST OBJECTIVES OF OAS
CHARTER REFORM FOR GOTT WAS TO REVISE ARTICLE 8 IN ORDER
TO PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC AVAILABILITY OF MEMBERSHIP TO
EACH HEMISPHERIC NATION WHEN IT BECAME INDEPENDENT. THE
ANOMALY OF GUYANESE EXCLUSION AND POTENTIAL BELIZEAN
EXCLUSION APPEARED TO MAKE THE OAS AN INSTRUMENT OF LATIN
PRESSURE AGAINST THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN.
RICH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 03015 02 OF 02 162235Z

14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

----- 060383

P R 152140Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8593

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 3015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, OAS, XL, TD, BH, US

SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORM: MAILLIARD VISITS TO CAPITALS--
PORT OF SPAIN

DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED

5. IN WILLIAMS' VIEW, THE OAS CHARTER SHOULD GO EVEN
FURTHER THAN PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATICITY OF MEMBERSHIP:

IT SHOULD ESSENTIALLY GUARANTEE THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MEMBER STATES. ALTHOUGH THE ENSUING DISCUSSION RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH A GUARANTEE IN THE CHARTER WAS UNREALISTIC, THE DEGREE OF PROTECTION AFFORDED SMALL STATES BY THE RIO TREATY WAS NOTED ALONG WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTENDING AT LEAST THAT DEGREE OF PROTECTION TO ALL THROUGH UNIVERSAL HEMISPHERIC ACCESS TO OAS MEMBERSHIP.

6. ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL CONGRUENCE OF USG AND GOTT VIEWS ON MEMBERSHIP WAS RECOGNIZED, AMB. MAILLIARD STRESSED THAT IF A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT WERE TO BE MADE TO LIBERALIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 03015 02 OF 02 162235Z

ARTICLE 8 IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ENLIST SOME SIGNIFICANT LATIN SUPPORT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE PERMANENT COUNCIL COMPLETES ITS REVIEW. HE SUGGESTED THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MIGHT USEFULLY CONSULT WITH THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IN THIS CONNECTION SINCE USG PROPOSALS WERE ALWAYS VIEWED AS SOMEWHAT SUSPECT AND THE GOTT WAS IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION TO ELICIT SUPPORT.

7. FOLLOWING OUR MORE THAN AN HOUR AND HALF OF DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS, FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH HOSTED AN OFFICIAL LUNCHEON FOR AMB. MAILLIARD AND CONCERNED OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY AND EMBASSY.

8. COMMENT: BELIEVE AMB. MAILLIARD'S VISIT WAS HIGHLY USEFUL IN CALLING TO ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER THE IMPORTANCE AND IMPLICATIONS OF OAS CHARTER ISSUE AND PROFOUND CONCERNS OF USG. DEGREE OF ATTENTION BY GOTT TO AMB. MAILLIARD'S VISIT WAS UNUSUAL IN MY EXPERIENCE AND INDICATED IMPORTANT COMMITMENT TO DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON HEMISPHERIC ISSUES. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' CONCERN FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND VIABILITY OF THE RECENTLY-INDEPENDENT AND ABOUT-TO-BE-INDEPENDENT ENGLISH-SPEAKING STATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AND THE THREAT HE PERCEIVES TO THIS GROUP'S POLITICAL, TERRITORIAL, AND CULTURAL INTEGRITY POSED BY A NUMBER OF THEIR SPANISH-SPEAKING NEIGHBORS CERTAINLY UNDERLIES HIS PRIMARY EMPHASES IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS BUT ALSO PROVIDED IN THIS INSTANCE THE ENGINE FOR A HIGHLY-MEANINGFUL EXPOSITION OF U.S. POLICIES AND CONCERNS.
RICH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO03015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750439-0027
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751239/aaaabiqa.tel
Line Count: 218
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS CHARTER REFORM: MAILLIARD VISITS TO CAPITALS-- PORT OF SPAIN
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, XL, TD, BH, US, OAS, (MAILLIARD, WILLIAM S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006